CHAPTER VI.—DEPARTMENTS OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

(i) Food Supplies.

681. Consequent on the State's Re-organisation from 1st November 1956, the area and population of the State became doubled. Naturally, the food requirements of the State also increased two-fold particularly due to the addition of the acute deficit districts of Bijapur, Bidar and Gulberga.

682. At the time of Reoraganisation, there were no separate food supplies establishments in any of the integrated areas except in Bijapur, Gulberga and Raichur districts, and the residuary food supplies work was being attended to by the Revenue establishments.

683. The following figures show the acreage and production of foodgrains of the State including the integrated areas:— Acreage and Production Estimates.

Foodgrains	Area	Production (in tons)
Rice	19,10,274	10,25,285
Ragi	19,14,676	7,43,423
Jowar	65,57,922	8,93,861
Bajra	12,73,940	1,42,342
Wheat ... — ...	7,27,009	62,623
Minor millets	12,21,329	1,40,019
Total ...	1,36,05,150	30,07,253

684. The small quantities of deteriorated foodgrains which were in possession of the Department at the commencement of the year were disposed of completely by calling for tenders and in public auction.

685. The construction of 14 godowns out of 25 per cent Food Bonus sanctioned by the Government of India to the State was not completed even during the year and the Chief Engineer in Mysore, Bangalore, was requested to expedite the same. Storage.

686. Due to the failure of monsoon rains in parts of Mysore and Mandya districts and consequent adverse seasonable conditions, the prices of foodgrains particularly of rice had risen abnormally in the State in about the Price Stabilisation Scheme.

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month of June 1956. Immediate measures were taken to afford relief to the distressed persons in the affected areas.

687. Inspite of the relief works undertaken, the prices of foodgrains did not show any indication of going down but on the other hand a further upward trend in the prices was observed. The question of further measures to bring down the prices was considered at a meeting held with Deputy Minister for Government of India at Bangalore and it was agreed that about 3,000 tons of Class I dehusked rice which was available at the time in the Central Government godowns at Bangalore to be delivered to the State Government at Rs. 14 per maund (inclusive of gunny) for being despatched to distress areas in Mysore and Mandya districts. It was also agreed to sell rice at three seers per rupee in the distress areas, the loss on this account being borne in equal proportions by the Government of India and the State Government. Accordingly, a steady flow of rice was maintained until a total quantity of 2,426 tons had been moved to Mysore and a quantity of 210 tons of rice to Mandya district. The balance quota of rice was surrendered to the Central Government as the conditions in the distress areas had since improved.

688. In addition to the above relief measures, the Central Government spared also 100 tons of rice for free distribution in the affected areas.

689. The second measure agreed upon at the meeting held on 24th June 1956 with the Deputy Minister for Food, Government of India, was to release first variety rice in Bangalore, Mysore, K.G.F., and Davangere cities in the first instance at Rs. 16 per maund (inclusive of gunny) in ex-Central Government godowns. It was agreed that 5,000 tons of first variety of rice would be allotted to the State in the first instance and it was assured that whatever further quantity might be indented for by the State Government would be supplied by the Government of India. It was also agreed to open Central Government godowns at Mysore, Bangalore, Davangere and K.G.F., and to release the stocks ex-their godowns. It was also agreed by the State Government to issue the rice to *bonafide* consumers at two seers per rupee through Co-operative Societies, Registered Associations, etc. Funds

were advanced to deserving Co-operative Institutions, Municipal and Village Panchayats, Co-operative Societies to purchase the rice stock and to sell it to *bonafide* consumers at two seers per rupee.

690. In addition to the issue of first variety rice at two seers per rupee, second variety rice at two and half seers per rupee was also arranged to be issued through the Fair Price Depots. Millets were not included in the Price Stabilisation Scheme sponsored by the Central Government, and since supplies of the same could not be obtained from any other sources also, as an alternative measure, rice and wheat were released for distribution in adequate quantities.

691. Fifty Fair Price Depots were opened in the Bangalore Corporation area; one Depot in each Division during the year to cater to the needs of the entire population since the distribution through Co-operative Societies and Registered Associations was not quite adequate. A sum of rupees one lakh was advanced to the Corporation of the City of Bangalore for the purchase of rice stocks on consignment basis for issue through the Fair Price Depots. Similarly, the Mysore City Municipality also opened its Depots for distribution of rice in Mysore City.

692. Mysore State had always been deficit in rice. The Regional Director (Food), Madras, was requested to see that adequate stocks of rice were maintained in all the Central Government godowns and to supply 6,000 tons of rice per month as noted below:—

Bangalore	...	...	2,000 tons
Mysore	...	...	800 tons
K.G.F.	...	...	400 tons
Davangere	...	...	400 tons

693. It was also requested to arrange for despatch of 300 tons of rice to the districts of Mandya, Tumkur, Shimoga Kolar, Hassan, Chickmagalur, Chitaldrug and Bellary on F.O.R. destination railhead basis.

694. As there was delay in getting supplies of food-grains from Bombay, the Government of India was requested to open Central Government godowns at Hubli, Bijapur, Karwar and Belgaum so as to ensure regular and

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prompt supplies to the distributing agencies. The Collectors of the said districts were also given an allotment of rupees one lakh each for being advanced to the distributing agencies for the purchase of rice and wheat on consignment basis. The Central Government agreed to open their godowns at Bijapur to strengthen the Depot at Belgaum and to issue rice and wheat to the entire district including the Belgaum Town through the Central Government Godown.

695. In the areas of former Hyderabad State, *viz.*, Gulbarga, Raichur and Bidar districts, there was no price stabilisation scheme. The Collectors were requested to open Fair Price Depots in all the places where there was urgent necessity and to distribute rice and wheat subject to the terms and conditions laid down. The Collectors of these districts also were given an allotment of rupees one lakh each for being advanced to the distributing agencies for the purchase of rice and wheat on consignment basis. The Central Government opened one Depot at Gulbarga to supply rice and wheat to all the three districts from this Depot.

696. In the integrated area of Madras State, *viz.*, South Kanara District, action had been taken under the price stabilisation scheme for the distribution of rice in the towns of Mangalore and Udipi which were the chief consuming areas in the district and where the prices were usually higher than in the other areas. The distributing agencies used to get supplies from the Central Government godown at Kozhikode or Coimbatore and the same procedure was continued for the remaining part of the year.

697. In Coorg, the former Coorg Government had arranged to buy and keep 500 tons of rice as a reserve for meeting possible emergencies. As the prices soared up in July 1956, 15 Fair Price Shops were opened for issuing rice to the consumers at two and half seers per rupee allowing a commission of Re. 0-50 per palla to the depot keeper. About 420 tons of rice out of the reserve stock of 500 tons were issued leaving a balance of 80 tons at the time of integration.

698. The Price Stabilisation Scheme had on the whole a salutary effect on the price in the open market

as it definitely arrested the further rise in prices even though it did not bring any noticeable decline. At the close of the year, there were 612 Fair Price Shops working in the State and a total quantity of about 8,00,000 maunds of rice had been distributed through these depots.

Sugar and Jaggery.

699. The release of sugar from the Sugar Factory with the prior approval of the Government of India was continued during the year. The price of sugar ranged from Rs. 1-28 to Rs. 1-50 per viss (in retail) or Rs. 92 to Rs. 102 per bag of 2 cwt. (in wholesale), during the year.

700. There was no control over jaggery during the year.

Proposal for winding up the Department of Food Supplies.

701. The Government in their letter No. SD. 2253, dated 29th June 1956, desired to take up immediately the question of winding up the Food Department by the end of December 1956, by disposing of all the outstanding audit objections in a lump, if necessary, after a personal discussion with the Accountant General.

702. In pursuance of these instructions, a meeting was held with the Accountant General in Mysore, Bangalore, and the Accountant General was of the opinion that he could not possibly agree to the write off of the entire outstanding objections in a lump and that every case has to be dealt with individually on its merits. The proposal had therefore to be dropped. The Accountant General, however, agreed that it was left to the State Government to take such measures as further decentralisation of powers, etc., with a view to accelerate the progress of clearance. Action was taken accordingly.

703. All the Unit Officers were instructed to avail of the greater scope afforded by the delegation of enhanced powers to speed up the progress of clearances. At the commencement of the year, the balance outstanding clearance amounted to Rs. 91,00,878 and a fresh demand of Rs. 16,18,912 was booked during the year bringing the total to Rs. 1,07,18,912. Objections to the extent of Rs. 57,74,416 were cleared leaving a balance of Rs. 49,44,496 at the end of the year.

704. A salient feature of the administration of the Department during the year was a complete reversal of